

## THE PRESIDENT'S EMANGIPATION PROCLAMATION.

The London *Daily News* of the 13th ult. says that immediately after receipt of the telegram which stated that Mr. Wendell Phillips had represented President Lincoln as having told him that the publication of the Emancipation Proclamation was a mistake, a gentleman well known in Liverpool wrote to Mr. Whiting, Solicitor to the War Department at Washington, asking him if the report was true. The following was Mr. Whiting's reply:—

Statements have been privately and publicly circulated that the President has said to Mr. Wendell Phillips, that "he had no expectation that the Emancipation Proclamation would do any good, or be of more effect than the Pope's Bull against the comet. The greatest folly of his life was issuing the Emancipation Proclamation." Several letters have been addressed to me, inquiring whether such statements were true. I cannot do Mr. Phillips the injustice to believe that he ever made the assertions attributed to him; and I have the highest authority for denying that the President ever, on any occasion, to any person, used the language or expressed the sentiments thus erroneously laid to his charge. The proclamation was one of a series of measures called for by a great public emergency. It was not suddenly resolved upon. Months of anxious observation, consultation and reflection had been given to the subject of military emancipation before it was finally carried into effect. It was deemed a measure of solemn import, of awful responsibility, and, in its ultimate results, of immeasurable importance to the country. It is true that the President did not at first expect such immediate and extraordinary effects to flow from it as were anticipated by its sanguine advocates; but he had then, and has now unbounded confidence that it would become an efficient means of suppressing the rebellion, and would prepare the way, in the hostile districts, for that state of society in which liberty and union would become forever one and inseparable.

The President would not have made a proclamation if he had no confidence in its efficacy. He would not have declared to all the world that he believed it to be an act of military necessity, if no such necessity had existed. Events have occurred since the beginning of the year which have demonstrated the power and wisdom of that great and irrevocable act of justice and humanity which will render the name of President Lincoln illustrious through all time. In his Message to Congress he uses the following language: "While I remain in my present position, I shall not attempt to retract or modify the Emancipation Proclamation, nor shall I return to slavery, any person who is free by the terms of the Proclamation, or by any of the acts of Congress."

And in the proclamation of amnesty he has insisted on a complete submission to the terms of emancipation.

WILLIAM WHITING,  
*Solicitor of the War Department.*